Reed Richards, Mr. Fantastic...Susan Richards, the Invisible Woman...Franklin Richards, Psi-Lord...Johnny Storm, the Human Torch...and Ben Grimm, the ever-lovin' Thing! They are the world's greatest super-team...

FANTASTIC FIVE

As Johnny Storm and his wife Lyja consider leaving the Fantastic Five, the Thing's ex-wife Sharon Ventura arrives, demanding custody of their super-powered children, Alyce and Jacob.

Meanwhile, after being held captive by the Sub-Mariner for over a decade, Doctor Doom escapes and regains the Power Cosmic.

Ambushing the Thing and encasing him within his own protective body armor, Doom leaves him to die at the bottom of Central Park Lake before streaking toward F5 Headquarters on a mission of vengeance!

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FANTASTIC FIVE No. 2, September, 2007. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in September and October by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. $2.99 per copy in the U.S. and $3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market. Canadian Agreement #40668537. **Printed in Canada.** ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, Senior VP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, VP of Business Affairs & Editorial Operations; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, VP Merchandising & Communications; JIM BOYLE, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. SABINE, Managing Editor; SUSAN GRESH, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

FANTASTIC FIVE HEADQUARTERS
It is an evening like many others.
BTOO- OOOM!
Use your force field to protect yourself, Sue!
DOCTOR DOOM has returned--!
I am impressed, Richards.
A lesser man might have been momentarily disorientated by my unexpected assault--
--but you react without hesitation.
Where has he been hiding all these years?
Why has he returned now? What does he want?

I suspect he's after the usual--
--world domination and revenge for perceived injustices.
Perceived--?!
I compliment you and you patronize me.
Is it any wonder I wish to erase you from existence?
From the way you're shimmering, I assume you have somehow reacquired the Power Cosmic or its equivalent.
And you still have the annoying habit of stating the obvious.
Speaking of obvious, why can't you grasp it?
No matter how powerful you are, we always find a way to beat you.
Maybe this time you'll finally get the--
Please--!
You don't want to waste your final words on a pathetic pun--

--because I could easily cause enough feedback to incinerate your very mind.
ARRRGH!
Leave my mother ALONE--!
You seem to have grown in power as well as age, young Richards.
But you are still a child in my eyes.
Since Doom does not make war on children, I shall spare your life.
Do not give me cause to regret this mercy.
URRK!
Oh, great! I was hoping we could spend the day at the mall, but it sounds like we're under attack... again.
You'd better stay behind us, Mom.
Alyce and I are trained for stuff like this.
No, Jacob! I want you and your sister to leave the heroics to your father and his teammates.
This is exactly what I feared.
I told Ben our children aren't safe here.
Where is my stubborn ex-husband, anyway?

FANTASTIC FIVE HEADQUARTERS...
Is everything all right, Dr. Richards?
I was in the astrophysics lab when I suddenly heard a--
MASTER--?!
Silence!
You have lost the right to address me directly.
I gave you a home, Kristoff Vernard!
I designated you my heir, exalting you above all others.
And how do you repay my boundless benevolence?
You JOIN my most hated foes.
You could have inherited my kingdom--
--and eventually ruled this entire world by my side.
But, no...
You chose the way of the traitor--
--and must now suffer alongside all who ever dared to defy me.
SMFFT!
SMFFT!

You aren't nearly as invincible as you think, Doom--
--or else I wouldn't have been able to escape these bands of ethereal force.
The human body may be a miracle of engineering, but it was never designed to contain the Power Cosmic.
It's only a matter of time before you implode.
Let me help you, Victor.
Together, we can find a way to--
Are you INSANE, Richards?
Has your feeble mind finally lost its fragile grip on reality?
Why would I even consider such a senseless--
Pardon the interruption--
--but I've waited my whole life for a chance to take on the legendary Doctor Doom.
KRAAAKKK!
Do you think this is a game, child?
It most assuredly is NOT.
SHOOOM!

JACOB--!
WASHHH!
SKWAT!
PWOOOM!
Y-you killed my brother!
Alyce, wait--!
I'm through standing on the sidelines.
I'm going to flash-fry this monster.
Are all teenagers so melodramatic?
Your brother still lives, child... as will you all!
Why should I deny myself the exquisite pleasure--
--of witnessing the abject helplessness of my greatest enemies as I subjugate the entire Earth?

THREE BLOCKS NORTH...
Are you guys out of your ever-loving minds?
Bad enough Ms. Ventura wants to move Jake and Alyce back to California, you're talking about quitting the FS.
Torus, your father thinks it's time he led his own team.
What part of world's greatest super-team don't you get?
Anything else isn't worth my time.
Now see here, young man...
KWOOOM!
Johnny--!
I see him, Lyla.
That's either Ben or Jake.
Huh--?!
FLAME ON!
You take the rescue.
I'll handle the attacker.
Ohmigosh!
You ready to make like a hero, son?
I sure am.
Transform into a Centurian Batmog--
--and try to keep up!

CENTRAL PARK LAKE....
THUMP! THUMP!
Gettin' harder and harder ta breathe.
After all these years, ya'd think I'd know how ta keep outta trouble...
We're not ready, I tell ya.
We're only askin' fer trouble.
Ben, I've checked and rechecked my calculations. The ship is good to go.
If you want to fly ta the stars, *you* pilot the ship. Count me out!
Ya know we haven't done enough research into the effect'a cosmic rays. They could kill us all.
Ben, I know you're afraid, but we've got to take that chance.
I...I never thought that you would be a coward.
A coward?!
Nobody calls me a coward!
"Get the ship! I'll fly her no matter *what* happens!"
Conditions are right tonight.
Let's GO!

FANTASTIC FIVE HEADQUARTERS....
You live at my sufferance.
My most casual gesture could easily obliterate you all.
With the power at my command, I can accomplish anything I desire.
Really?!
Does that include shutting up?
The Human Torch!
Gotta admit I haven't missed you or your megalomaniac monologuing, Doom.
Don't waste your time fighting him, Johnny! I'm ordering you to back off.
Ordering me--?!
You need to get help and warn the world that Doom has reclaimed the Power Cosmic.
I... understand.
You can count on me, Reed.
I'll alert the Avengers, the army and everyone else.
NO! NO!
You mustn't spoil my grand entrance.
I, and only I, will determine when the world shall learn of my triumphant return.

I...I can't believe Uncle Johnny deserted us.
He didn't.
He was merely following instructions to distract Doom.
Sharon, I need you to attend to the wounded and get them to safety.
W-where are you going?
To our armory--
"--where I hope to find the one weapon that can stop Doom."
No matter how fast you flee, you cannot outrace me.
Oh, yeah? We'll just see about that.
It's no use. He is faster than me. I just hope I can buy Reed the time he needs.
When will you finally grasp the absolute futility of resisting me?
I need not chase you.
Not when I can form shimmering walls of indestructible ethereal energy--
"--and send them to ensnare you!"

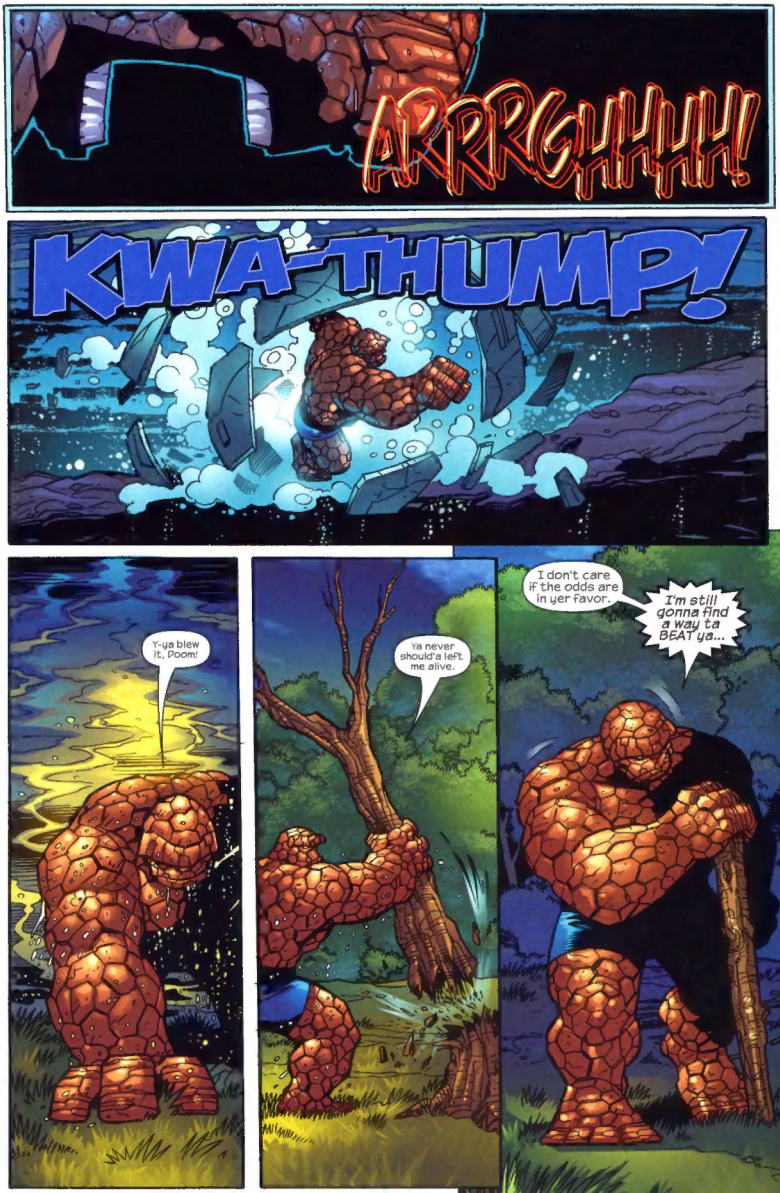
THUMP!
THUMP!
ARRRGH!
A-air's gone.
C-can't hold out much longer.
B-but I gotta keep fightin'.
I just can't quit.
Can't give in ta the pain.
Imbecile! Stupid puny human!
Why do you continue to pit your pathetic strength against the power of Terrax?
I am destined to crush you as decisively as I did your comrades.
You have no hope! No possibility of survival!
I been in tougher fixes.
Lucky fer me, I'm just too ornery and ugly ta know when ta quit.
Fool! I was the deadliest, most powerful herald of Galactus.
His COSMIC GIFT still roars within me!

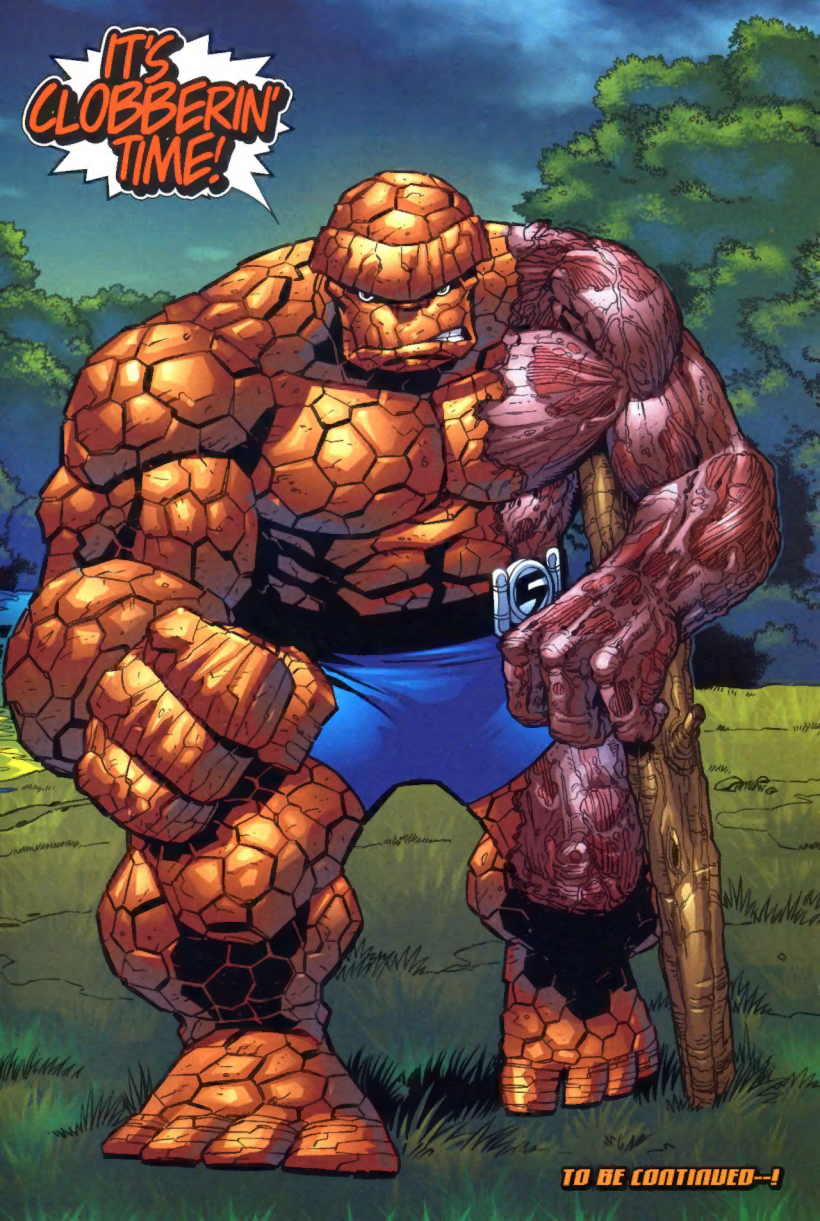
You did it, Ben!
You gave me all the time I needed.
ZAKKKKK!
This will generate a miniature black hole within him and expel him from our universe.
Get back! The resulting implosion could be devastating.
NO! NO!
Even if I am fated to die, I shall take my revenge on this arrogant idiot.
Go fer it, pal! Take yer best shot!
Run, Ben! RUN!
This is no time to play hero.
Get away from him before--
ARRRGHHHH!

ARRRGH!
--hey--!
What gives?
I...I am so sorry, Ben.
It couldn't be helped.
Your injuries were so extensive... the damage so massive... I had no choice.
That bio-armor was your only hope.
Your wounds may heal over time...but it could take years.
ARRRGHHH!

At last!
There it is--!
As Doom already knows, he isn't the first cosmically-powered opponent we've battled.
And I doubt he'll be the last.
On the contrary, my dear Richards--
--I will be the LAST FOE you will ever face!

Your fate is sealed.
Our decades-long competition is finally over.
It ends as we always knew it would--
--with my total VICTORY!
You were the only one who ever had any hope of thwarting me.
With your defeat, the Earth is MINE!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!


ARRRGHHHH!
KWA-THUMP!
Y-ya blew it, Doom!
Ya never should'a left me alive.
I don't care if the odds are in yer favor.
I'm still gonna find a way ta BEAT ya...


IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
TO BE CONTINUED--!